
F. J. K. Griezic
more space had been devoted to study of this sort. In addition, the material discussing the training and regulation of teachers is outstanding.

Schooling and Scholars considers the same region and generally the same period. (One might protest that the book is mistitled in its suggestion that the subject is investigated for the "nineteenth century." It terminates in 1871, as does Curtis’s.) Both books are concerned far more with the internal workings of education than with legislative fiat, with the roles ascribed to the administrator, teacher, parent, and student. In most other respects, however, this is quite a different book from Building the Educational State. One is struck throughout by the fabric of the analysis, giving the reader a sense of the strong personal stake that has been recognized and effectively incorporated into this account, making the subject is investigated for the last quarter of the 19th century and beyond, into our more recent past.

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Books by politicians are invariably a disappointment since the authors are seldom explicit in discussing their political activities. Frequently the works are defensive explanations or panegyrics extolling the virtues of the politicians or their political parties. Occasionally there are some, such as Judy Lamarche’s Bird in a Gilded Cage or Lise Payette’s Le Pouvoir? connais pas, that go beyond these sterile parameters. Lapalme’s book is different in that he had already produced his memoirs; this piece is an attempt to place him in the political perspective he deserves as a progenitor of what became known as “la révolution tranquille,” the misnamed and mythologized period in Quebec’s history.

Lapalme is an interesting figure, even if little known outside Quebec and not that well known even in his own province. A lawyer of Liberal antecedents, he successfully entered politics, first federally (after World War II) and then provincially, where he became the provincial Liberal leader (1950-57) of the Opposition. He was briefly a member of Premier Jean Lesage’s “cabinet du Tonnerre” but resigned. None the less, he was important for the ideas and platforms he advocated for the Liberal Party, thus his appellation as the father of the “quiet revolution.”

These recent books have expanded our knowledge of Ontario’s educational heritage. If, however, one had time to consult only one of these books, Schooling and Scholars in Nineteenth-Century Ontario would be the wiser choice. The thorough examination of the period before 1871 makes the task for educational historians all the clearer by exposing the vacuum of similar studies for the last quarter of the 19th century and beyond, into our more recent past.

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Lapalme appears to be a different kind of politician. He gives the impression of caring for the people, of believing in justice and fairness. But there is an almost blind belief in the intrinsic merit of the Liberals as the only party capable of bringing about positive change or able to practice or understand democracy. That naivety is evident throughout the work.

In the first section criticism is levelled against the federal Liberals, who did not support the Quebec provincial Liberals and who advocated the separation of the two if the provincial wing ever hoped to be successful. As well, he takes the provincial Liberals to task for failing to work together, and for being easily bought off. He chastizes Liberal businessmen, the media, and the Catholic church for following Duplessis while denouncing the Liberals’ actions. He is rather gentle in this and it would have been beneficial had he been more explicit.

It is, however, the proposals that he made for the Liberals to implement when in power that are significant. He stressed the importance of the Québécois culture, which must be preserved, magnified, embellished, and extolled if Quebec was to survive. Only through this recognition and promotion would their “épanouissement” occur. The creation of an office to protect the language and promote its use, and the improvement of education, with the establishment of a ministry of education, were essential for such growth.

The reforms proposed go beyond culture: expanded obligatory free education for all until the age of 16; nationalization of energy resources; ministries for health, social services, and natural resources; revision of the tax structure; increased government spending on communications and transportation; and improvements in municipal government. These suggestions are impressive, but many were being proposed by Quebec socialists and labour leaders at the end of the 19th century.

Although favourable to Confederation, Lapalme felt only Quebec could protect its own interests. He wanted provincial powers to be extensive and desired the central government to leave the field of indirect taxation to the provincial government. No comment was made on succession duties: one therefore assumes that Lapalme favoured or accepted the federal government’s proposal to reduce them, which appears inconsistent with his suggestions.

Many of Lapalme’s proposals were included as part of the changes introduced by the Lesage administration, and for that reason the book merits a wide readership. It will correct the emphasis on Lesage as the progenitor of change in Quebec, a position at least a few historians in English Canada have been arguing for some time.

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In 1350 Corsignano was a small medieval hilltown with 359 houses and 1,350 inhabitants. Over 100 years later Corsignano, renamed Pienza in 1462 in honour of Pius II, had become “a very model of Renaissance urban thought and a testimonial to architectural taste in the Age of Humanism.” The story, presented in C. R. Mack’s book, is a fascinating one. It is centered on a town whose economic fibre of the town. It is spacious and open in radical opposition to medieval “towerlike verticality.” Its “inviting exterior” is the opposite of the “forbidding fronts” of earlier palaces, while the whole structure is a subtle interplay of “comfort, elegance, grace, and not least, tasteful ostentation.” But this is characteristic not only of Palazzo Piccolomini but also of most of the 40-odd constructions built or refurbished.